

## **CONTINGENCY FUND**

### **PROGRAM PROFILE**

#### **Approved Releases**

**Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB):** In FY 1998, APHIS released \$1.6 million in contingency funds to continue the ALB emergency control project in New York State (NYS) and begin a similar project in Illinois. Of this amount, \$1.5 million was released for NYS and \$100,000 was released for Illinois. To date, major infestations have hit Brooklyn, New York; Amityville, Long Island; and three locations near Chicago, Illinois. Swift action on this pest was necessary to protect forest products, nursery, tourist, and maple syrup industries, which generate combined revenue of \$47 billion annually.

Participating with APHIS in the NY effort are the U.S. Forest Service (FS) and officials of State, county, and city agencies. The program consists primarily of tree removal, which is funded through cooperative agreements with the New York Department of Agriculture and Markets. The program also includes detection and delimiting surveys and intensified extension/education efforts. A number of other studies were conducted as well. Surveys will continue in Long Island and Manhattan for 2 years after the last beetle find. During FY 1998, the program achieved drastic reductions of ALB populations in areas that had been heavily infested and the tree removal effort made outstanding progress. However, the program did locate five infested properties and expanded the quarantine boundaries accordingly.

In July 1998, ALB was found at three locations in the Chicago, Illinois, area. Delimiting surveys were conducted and a quarantine was established. Appropriately 300-350 trees were infested and scheduled for removal. The infested areas are the Ravenswood section of Chicago, Addison, and Summit. This program is a cooperative effort between APHIS, the Illinois State Department of Agriculture, and the City of Chicago. These areas will be surveyed several times per year for 5 years after the last beetle find. In

addition, a biometric survey will be conducted for 2 years after the last beetle find. It is anticipated that additional infested trees will be identified and removed.

**Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE):** In FY 1997, \$101,000 was released from the contingency funds for the purchase and disposal of United Kingdom (UK) imported cattle. These funds were requested because no program funds were available for this activity in FY 1997. From January 1981 through July 1989, the United States imported 496 animals from the UK. The UK was later determined to be affected with BSE. In March 1996, APHIS determined that 113 of the 496 animals were known to be alive. Funds were used to purchase and dispose of 74 animals. The owners of the remaining 39 chose not to sell their animals to APHIS. In FY 1997, the owners of seven of the remaining animals reconsidered and sold their animals to APHIS for diagnostic purposes. Funds were also used for transporting and disposing of these animals. \$90,109 was carried forward into FY 1998. A total of \$9,888 was obligated in FY 1998. These funds were used to dispose of cattle condemned at slaughter for neurological disease. Approximately \$80,000 is expected to be carried forward into FY 1999 for a similar purpose.

**Citrus Canker:** In FY 1998, APHIS released \$760,000 in contingency funds to assist Florida with the citrus canker emergency project in the Miami, Florida, area. This cooperative program involves intensive surveys to delimit the outbreak, regulatory action to prevent the movement of potentially infected materials, removal and destruction of infected trees, and pruning of exposed trees of all leaves and softwood. The bulk of funding and staff for eradication activities in FY 1998 was provided by the State, using funds received in the January 1997 settlement of a lawsuit against the USDA. The State hired temporary employees to conduct most of the survey work and APHIS provided technical assistance, conducted regulatory and survey activities, and participated in program planning. Federal involvement has enabled the program to conduct innovative regulatory and public information programs to delimit the pest and to demonstrate national

commitment to eradication. The quarantine zones enable the program to detect and control further occurrences of the disease in and around the infested areas. In Dade County, infestations were found at approximately 22,000 residential properties. These infestations occurred in 116 of the 265 sections that comprise the current regulated area. In addition, citrus canker was found in 10 sections outside the regulated area (8 in Dade County and 2 in Broward County). In some of the most heavily infested sections, over 500 infested properties were identified (out of an estimated 2,000 residential properties per section). As a result, about 40,000 infested trees were destroyed, about 15,000 exposed trees destroyed, and about 23,000 exposed trees severely cut back. In Palmetto (Manatee County), citrus canker was found in 47 groves, comprised of 409 acres. In addition, the disease was found in 11 abandoned groves totaling 41 acres. State contractors destroyed approximately 46,000 trees on 511 acres. Of the 13,000 residential properties surveyed in Manatee County, 49 were found to be positive, and 184 infected trees were destroyed. DNA "fingerprinting" revealed that the citrus canker strain in Manatee County is similar to the one that was believed to have been eradicated in 1994. Therefore, it appears that the current infestation may be a carryover from the previous infestation.

**European Gypsy Moth (EGM)/Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM):** In FY 1998, APHIS released \$1,111,000 from the contingency fund to conduct emergency projects to control EGM and AGM. The FY 1998 program for EGM included delimiting surveys, aerial treatments of Bt, post-treatment surveys, and egg mass surveys covering approximately 600,000 acres in 13 States outside of the generally infested areas. Seven States -- CA, MN, NC, OR, VA, WA, and WI -- conducted control activities. In the other States -- IL, IN, IA, NE, OH, and WV -- APHIS conducted and supervised most of the control work, which involved Bt applications and mass trapping. In FY 1998, the Agency treated 49 small, isolated infestations of approximately 38,988 acres. This compares to an equal number of infestations but covering only 18,468 acres in FY 1997. In FY 1997, the fungus *Entomophaga maimaiga* and the

Nucleopolyhedrosis virus significantly reduced infested acreage throughout eastern United States, thus enabling APHIS to treat more small infestations. The “Slow the Spread” (STS) pilot programs in Virginia and West Virginia have been extremely successful in reducing the spread rate.

In FY 1998, AGM activities in Washington State consisted of surveys, trapping, and genetic testing in Seattle and Tacoma involving over 700 acres. One AGM was trapped in each city during FY 1997. In response to these finds, the program conducted surveys over a 20-mile-radius in FY 1998 consisting of 2,148 traps. Also, APHIS conducted port and waterway detection surveys for AGM as part of its Agricultural Quarantine Inspection program. These detection surveys consisted of 4,251 traps in Washington and 1,653 traps in Oregon. With 8,052 traps set, not a single AGM was trapped. This is a good result since AGM populations in the Russian Far East are rising and international trade and commerce activities have increased the opportunity for new introductions in the United States. As an added measure, the program treated 640 acres in Tacoma with three aerial applications of Bt and 60 acres in Seattle with three ground applications of Bt.

**Pink Hibiscus Mealybug (PHM):** In FY 1998, APHIS released \$74,744 in contingency funds to help control the pink hibiscus mealybug (PHM) in the Caribbean. The PHM is a dangerous pest that infects over 200 host plants, many of economic importance to the Caribbean. APHIS provided the funds to the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) Department of Agriculture through a cooperative agreement. The agreement funded the operation of the PHM insectary on St. Thomas, which also served Culebra and Vieques of Puerto Rico. This facility produced the pest’s natural enemies from China, India, and Hawaii at a rate of 3,000 per week. Also, the insectary provided inoculative releases of exotic PHM parasites to infested neighboring islands upon request. Through this project, APHIS promoted the production of beneficial parasites to be released in the USVI and Puerto Rico through close cooperation with the USVI Department of Agriculture.

This approach is compatible with sensitive Caribbean ecosystems. These activities supplemented a \$266,000 APHIS biological control effort in the Caribbean, which is funded from appropriated dollars. Currently, 21 parasites and 41 predators are known to attack the hibiscus mealybug worldwide.

**Mexican Fruit Fly (MFF)/Oriental Fruit Fly (OFF):**

Due to several detections in Los Angeles County, CA, APHIS conducted two small-scale eradication programs in FY 1998, releasing contingency funds in the amount of \$418,500 for MFF and \$236,500 for OFF. Adult and larval detections of MFFs in the Boyle Heights area of Los Angeles County required ground applications of Malathion; fruit stripping and diazinon soil drenches at each larval site; and the release of sterile flies over a 10-square mile area. The MFF eradication zone/quarantine area included 62 square miles. Detections of adult OFFs and larval sites occurred in the Covina and Hawthorne/Westchester areas of Los Angeles County. These finds involved male annihilation treatments over 10 square miles in Covina and 27 square miles in the Hawthorne/Westchester area, and fruit stripping and diazinon soil drenches at larval sites. Both programs operated under a cost sharing arrangement with the CDFA. The eradication of these exotic pests enabled California agricultural products to maintain unrestricted trade status.

**Tuberculosis (TB) in Cervidae:** In FY 1998, APHIS released funds to indemnify owners of tuberculosis-infected Cervidae. Contingency funds were requested because no funds were included for this activity in the FY 1998 tuberculosis program. In FY 1997, \$400,000 was released from the contingency fund to indemnify owners of TB infected and/or exposed cervidae. A total of \$250,054 was carried forward into FY 1998. Of this amount, approximately \$95,000 was obligated in FY 1998. Funds were used to support a surveillance project in Michigan (focusing on wildlife) and for indemnity/depopulation activities in Michigan and Wisconsin. Of the \$95,000, approximately \$38,000 was used to indemnify owners of exposed and/or reactor animals.

**Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV):** VSV is a viral disease that primarily affects cattle, swine, and horses. The disease occasionally affects sheep, goats, deer, and raccoons. Humans may also be affected. A total of \$134,455 was obligated in FY 1996 with the remaining \$152,000 being carried forward into FY 1997. These funds were not needed in FY 1997. These funds were, however, reallocated in FY 1998 in response to two VSV outbreaks. The first outbreak began in May 1997 and ended in February 1998. Program funds were used from May to September 1997. Contingency funds were used from October 1997 to February 1998. In all, APHIS investigated 703 premises during this outbreak with 380 premises testing positive for the virus. Investigations were conducted in 41 States with the positive cases being in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah. The second outbreak began in May 1998, and is ongoing as of November 1998. A total of \$137,101 was obligated in FY 1998 with \$14,899 being carried forward to FY 1999. As of November 27, 1998, APHIS has investigated 226 premises. Of the 226 premises, 131 have tested positive for the virus. All the positive cases to date have been of the equine species, except for one bovine case in Adams County, Colorado.

**Wolf Damage Control:** In FY 1998, APHIS released \$134,674 from contingency funds for wolf damage management activities. The funds allowed APHIS Wildlife Services personnel to appropriately respond to all requests for investigation of suspected wolf depredation in FY 1998. Populations of reintroduced wolves in Yellowstone National Park and central Idaho as well as naturally occurring populations from Canada are increasing annually. The Minnesota wolf population is increasing at an annual rate of 3 to 5 percent and expanding its range considerably, which in turn is causing an increase in the demand for APHIS to investigate suspected cases of wolf depredation. This resulted in a funding shortage of more than \$103,000 for wolf program work in Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, and Wyoming in FY 1998. In addition, the location of some wolf populations in remote and inaccessible areas requires that approximately 50 percent of wolf damage management must be accomplished through an aerial

operations program. To continue essential wolf damage management activities, an external safety review of WS aerial operations program was conducted at a cost of \$30,000.

## Summary

In FY 1998, contingency funds were released for the following programs:

### FY 1998 OBLIGATIONS

	<u>Available</u>	<u>Obligated</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Asian Longhorned Beetle.....	\$1,630,000	\$1,327,342	\$302,658
Bovine spongiform encephalopathy	90,109	9,888	80,221
Citrus	760,000	662,801	97,199
canker.....			
European/Asian gypsy moth.....	1,111,000	763,523	347,477
Oriental fruit	236,500	168,923	67,577
fly.....			
Pink hibiscus mealybug.....	74,744	74,744	0
Tuberculosis in cervidae.....	250,054	95,131	154,923
Mexican fruit fly.....	418,500	300,912	117,588
Vesicular Stomatitis Virus.....	152,000	137,101	14,899
Wolf damage control.....	134,674	134,674	0
Unallocated.....	1,321,281	0	1,321,281
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Total.....	\$6,178,862	\$3,675,039	\$2,503,823
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(Balance carried over into 1999)			